

Message Text

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16

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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UNCLAS BUDAPEST 3069

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC SCUL HU
SUBJECT: CU/ARTS: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (LAPO):
TRAVEL VIENNA - BUDAPEST

REF: BUDAPEST 2966, STATE 210497

1. IT OCCURRED TO US AFTER SENDING BUDAPEST 2966 THAT
FURTHER CLARIFICATION MAY BE DESIRABLE ABOUT THE REASONS
WHY AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT THE FLEISCHMANN-LYNCH H4
INTERKONCERT MEETING THAT TRAIN TRAVEL WAS THE MOST
DESIRABLE FOR LAPO BETWEEN VIENNA AND BUDAPEST.

2. THE REASON WAS AS MUCH THE CONVENIENCE OF ORCHESTRA
MEMBERS AND THE RELIABILITY OF THE TRAIN IN CASE OF
INCLEMENT WEATHER, AS IT WAS FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. THE SZABADSAG HOTEL IN BUDAPEST IS DIRECTLY ACROSS
THE STREET FROM THE TRAIN STATION. THIS WOULD SAVE
ORCHESTRA MEMBERS A 45 MINUTE BUS RIDE FROM THE AIRPORT.

4. SINCE PASSPORT AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE ARE
COMPLETED WHILE THE TRAIN IS IN TRANSIT, A
MINIMUM OF ONE HOUR OF STANDING IN LINE AND WAITING
AT THE BUDAPEST AIRPORT FOR PASSPORT CONTROL CAN ALSO
BE ELIMINATED.

5. BECAUSE SPECIAL CARS WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE
BUDAPEST TRAIN FOR LAPO MEMBERS, ARRIVAL AT THE TRAIN
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STATION 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE WILL BE SUF-

FICIENT, THUS REDUCING BY AT LEAST 40 MINUTES THE CHECK-IN-TIME REQUIRED AT THE VIENNA AIRPORT.

6. FINALLY, TRANSFER TIME FROM THE VIENNA HOTEL TO THE WESTBANHOF TRAIN STATION REQUIRES AT LEAST 30 MINUTES LESS THAN THE LONG TRIP TO SCHWECHAT WHERE THE VIENNA AIRPORT IS LOCATED.

7. THUS, IN EXCHANGE FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR'S ADDITIONAL TIME FROM HOTEL DOOR TO HOTEL DOOR IF TRAVEL OCCURS BY TRAIN, ORCHESTRA MEMBERS GAIN CONSIDERABLE COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE, AVOID THREE EXTRA BUS TRANSFERS, ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS OF BUS RIDES THROUGH HEAVY CITY TRAFFIC AND STANDING IN LINE FOR PASSPORT CONTROL.

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